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REPORT

ON THE

FRONTIER AFFAIRS OF BURMA IN 1891-92.

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REPORT

ON THE

FRONTIER AFFAIRS OF BURMA IN 1891-92.

THE present report contains a narrative of the frontier affairs of Burma from the end of the dry weather of 1891 to the end of the dry weather of 1892. The affairs of the Shan States administered by the Superintendents of Shan States are dealt with in separate reports.

This report deals with—

(i) the Chin Hills;

(ii) the Shan States of Hsawngsūp (Thaungdut), Sīngkalīng Hkamtī (Zingalein-Kanti), and the *quondam* Shan State of Kalè, administered by the Commissioner of the Central Division;

(iii) the Shan State of Mongmit (Momeik) and the *quondam* Shan State of Wuntho, administered by the Commissioner of the Northern Division;

(iv) the outlying portions of the Bhamo and Katha districts to the west of the Irrawaddy;

(v) the outlying portions of the Bhamo district to the east of the Irrawaddy.

I.—*The Chin Hills.*

2 During the year under report the Chin Hills were, as in the previous year, administered from three centres,—the northern tribes from Fort White, the central tribes from Haka, and the southern tribes from Yawdwin.

Northern Chin tribes administered from Fort White.

Tribes controlled by the Political Officer, Northern Chin Hills.

3. From the beginning of the rains till the beginning of November Captain H. Rose was in charge of the Northern Chin Hills; during the remainder of the period under report they were controlled by Mr. B. S. Carey, Assistant Commissioner. The tribes nominally under our control at the end of the open season of 1890-91 were—

(*a*) the Siyins, whose villages are in the immediate vicinity of Fort White and whose country borders the Kalè Valley;

(*b*) the Kanhaws, who occupy the country north of Fort White stretching from Malawun to Old Mwelpi;

(*c*) the Shinshinngoywa, whose villages lie south of the Siyin country on the east bank of the Nankathè;

(*d*) the Mobingyis, who are described as half Siyins and half Kanhaws, and whose villages lie to the west of the Siyins and between them and the Nankathè;

(*e*) the Ngwite and Latè, who occupy the hills between Mwelpi and Manipur; and

(*f*) the Haitsi Lope, who live on the eastern slope of the Letha range bordering the Kabaw Valley.

Events during the rains.

4. The Northern Chin Hills were practically free from disturbance during the rains of 1891. In May 1891 Maung Tun Win, Myoôk on special duty at Fort White, came to Rangoon with a party of seven Chins, consisting of two Chiefs of the Kanhaw tribes, three Chiefs of the Siyin tribe, and two women. These Chins were induced to visit Rangoon in order that they might learn something of the nature and extent of the British power. There is no doubt that our difficulties in the Chin Hills since 1888 have been in great measure due to the absolute ignorance of the Chiefs of our power and resources. Knowing nothing beyond what they have seen and learnt in their own hills, they have hitherto regarded us as a tribe like themselves and have believed our troops in the hills to constitute our whole force. Recent events have afforded a curious instance of this belief. As is reported in a later part of this narrative a column from Burma marched from Fort White to Lungleh in May 1892 to co-operate with Bengal troops in the Southern Lushai country. It is now said to be currently believed in the Lushai hills that the Burma column was a tribe which came to assist the Bengal troops,—another tribe,—but that such assistance cannot be expected in future as the two tribes are not likely to remain friends for long. It was with the object of dispelling such ideas as these that Maung Tun Win came to Rangoon with his party of Chins. The Chiefs remained some days in Rangoon, were interviewed by the Chief Commissioner, were shown the various sights of the town, and then returned to their country duly impressed, it is hoped, with what they had seen and heard.

Position of affairs in the Northern Chin Hills at the beginning of the open season of 1891-92

5. At the beginning of the open season of 1891-92 the tribes controlled from Fort White were on the whole peaceably disposed. The Siyins, Shinngoywa, and Mobingyis were thoroughly friendly; the Kanhaws had been reduced to subjection by the punishment inflicted in 1890-91, and showed no signs of intending to again resist our authority; the Nwengals had committed a raid for which they had not been punished, but the Tashons, to whom they are tributaries, had promised to deliver up those guilty of the raid and had guaranteed the future good behaviour of the tribe; the Ngwitè, Latè, and Haitsi Lope lay beyond the sphere of our control.

Scheme of operations for 1891-92.

6. The scheme of operations drawn up for the open season of 1891-92 provided for the visitation of the Northern tribes up to the limits of Manipur by a column of 100 British troops and 200 Native troops with two guns, and for an expedition with a force of equal strength to Falam and through the Nwengal and Yahao country in conjunction with a column which was to operate from Haka. The first, or Kanhaw, column was to start at the beginning of the open season, and when it had completed its work, the second or Nwengal, column was to take the field. The Kanhaw column was not to be a punitive column. It was to accompany the Political Officer in order to enable him to promptly suppress any opposition which he might meet, but the task assigned to him was to establish his influence, collect information, select Chiefs, and settle tribute without the use of force. With these objects he was instructed to visit as many villages as possible, to explain to the Chiefs and people our intention to formally recognize certain Chiefs, and hold them responsible for the payment of tribute and the preservation of order, and to select, in consultation with the Chiefs and people, the persons to be so recognized. When Chiefs had been selected and their jurisdictions fixed, the Political Officer was to issue preliminary sanads to them. These sanads recognized the Chief concerned as paramount within the limits occupied by his tribe, fixed his tribute, forbad raiding, and required the Chief to make over murderers, dacoits and robbers to the British authorities and to submit to the orders of those authorities. The Political Officer was further instructed that tribute should be fixed for five years to begin with and should ordinarily be at the rate of one rupee per household. The Nwengal column was to co-operate with the Tashon column from Haka in establishing a post at Falam, and was then to traverse the Nwengal and Yahao country, dealing with it in the same manner as with the Kanhaw country.

Kanhaw column.

7. The Kanhaw column consisted of 50 men of the 4th Battalion, King's Royal Rifles, 137 native troops of the 39th Garhwalis and the 10th Regiment (1st Burma Battalion) M.I., 50 men of the 4th Madras Pioneers, and 65 men of the 8th Bengal Mountain Battery with two guns. Captain Stevens, 4th Madras Pioneers, commanded the column, and Mr. Carey accompanied it as Political Officer. During November and December, before the column started, stores were sent forward to Tiddim and Tunzan, a road was made, two bridges were thrown across the Nankathè, and temporary buildings were erected for the troops at Tiddim and Tunzan. The column left Fort White on the 3rd January and marched first to Lenacot, some 80 miles from Fort White and half way between Fort White and Manipur. Lenacot was selected as the base for a further advance and posts were also left at Tiddim and Tunzan to secure the column's line of communications. On the 22nd January the column, consisting of ten officers, 135 rifles, and two guns, advanced into the Ngwitè or Tornlorng country which lies to the north-west of Fort White. The village of Somekan, the Chief of the Tornlorng tribe, was reached on the 29th January. Somekan was summoned to surrender his slaves, of which the tribe was known to possess several, and as none were surrendered two of Somekan's brothers and another Chief were arrested. Seven slaves were then surrendered and the column returned to the Kana stream 20 miles from Lenacot. From this point it marched to Manipur through the Thado country. It had originally been arranged that the column should be met on the borders of Manipur by a column from Manipur, but circumstances prevented the despatch of this column. After a stay of a few days at Manipur the Kanhaw column returned to Lenacot exploring the Thado country on its way, interviewing Chiefs, and compelling the release of slaves. The information obtained on this march enabled Mr. Carey to submit proposals for demarcating the hitherto undefined boundary between Manipur and the Northern Chin country. His proposals were submitted to the Government of India in March, and it has recently been decided that the frontier shall be demarcated next cold weather by a commission of officers deputed from Manipur and Burma. The column reached Lenacot on the 19th February, and Mr. Carey returned to Fort White to carry out the second part of the season's work assigned to him. Mr. Sherman, Assistant Superintendent of Police, remained with the Kanhaw column at Lenacot and continued the work of bringing the surrounding country under control. The work done consisted in opening the Lenacot-Yazagyo trade route, visiting the Haitsi-Lopa tract, collecting taxes, inflicting fines and collecting tribute. The column then returned to the Kanhaw country, where it remained till the middle of March for the purpose of crushing any resistance which the Kanhaws might attempt to offer in concert with the Tashons to the occupation of Falam. The last part of the column's work consisted in the exploration of the Nwengal country, a task which had originally been assigned to the Nwengal column, but which that column, for reasons explained hereafter, was unable to accomplish. At the end of the season the column was compelled to take hostile measures against some Nwengal villages. During the absence of the Nwengal column in the Lushai hills under circumstances explained hereafter some Nwengal villages planned an attack on Botong, a village to the west of the Nankathè river, which was the base of the Nwengal column's advance. On the 27th April a Burman visiting one of these villages was murdered in cold blood, and news was received that several villages were planning an attack on Botong. The Kanhaw column accordingly marched out from Fort White and crossed the Nankathè on the 4th May. Its advance was opposed by a number of Chins who lined the opposite bank. The Chins were driven back with a loss of two killed and one wounded. The column then halted till the 10th May when it was joined by the detachment from Botong. On the 6th May the Chins had attacked Botong, but had been driven off with a loss of three. The detachment at Botong having joined Captain Stevens at the Nankathè the combined column attacked Hele, at which the Burman had been murdered, captured the village, burnt some houses as a punishment, and then returned to Fort White. In the attack on Hele two Chins were

killed and one was wounded. The capture of Hele ended the operations of the Kanhaw column, which, as the foregoing narrative shows, was engaged almost continuously on active operations from the beginning of January till the middle of May. During this time it did a large amount of useful work in a manner reflecting much credit on all concerned.

Nwengal column

8. The task assigned to the Nwengal column was, as has been stated in paragraph 6, to co-operate with a column from Haka in the occupation of Falam and then to explore the Nwengal and Yahao country. The column consisted of 100 rifles, King's Royal Rifles, 150 rifles, 39th Garhwalis, 50 pioneers and two guns under Captain Rose with Mr. Carey as Political Officer. Before the column started fears were entertained that a general rising would take place, as the Tashons, knowing that we intended to bring them thoroughly under control, tried to stir up all the tribes against us. Fortunately their attempt failed. The tribes which had submitted to us declined to entertain proposals for throwing off their allegiance. The column marched from Fort White on the 10th March and reached the Nankathè on the 13th. On the column reaching the river a large body of armed Chins was seen on the opposite bank. Fire was opened on them and they fled, leaving one dead. This was the only hostile encounter with Chins which took place during the operations in the Tashon country. After crossing the Nankathè the column advanced to Falam and joined hands with the Tashon column. The further operations in the Tashon country, which is within the jurisdiction of Haka, are narrated in the later part of this report which deals with the Southern Chin country. After a stay of a few days at Falam the Nwengal column made a short expedition to the west to visit certain villages which had given signs of an intention to resist our authority. The column then returned to Mobingyi, which was reached on the 22nd March. At Mobingyi preparations were at once made for the visitation of the Nwengal country, a work with which it was intended that the operations of the column should terminate. The Nwengal country is a strip of land on the west of the Nankathè stretching, roughly, from the latitude of Mobingyi in the south to the latitude of Tiddim in the south. The inhabitants of the tract consist of emigrants from the Kanhaws, Mobingyis and various tribes. These people do not form a separate tribe, but maintain their connection with the tribes to the east of the Nankathè from which they migrated. Farther to the east of the Nwengal country is the Whelno, or Whenoh, tract which extends to the Lushai country. It was decided that this tract also should be explored by the column, but owing to the circumstances explained in the following paragraph the plan of operations had to be changed

Expedition into the Lushai country.

9. While the Nwengal column was preparing to start for Falam news had been received of disturbances in the Lushai hills under the administration of the Bengal and Assam Governments. The first intimation of trouble was contained in a telegram of the 4th March from the Chief Commissioner, Assam, to the effect that Mr. McCabe, the Political Officer in the Northern, or Assam, hills had been attacked in force at Lalbura, a village 8 miles east of Fort Aijal, and had stockaded himself there. Subsequently news was received that fighting continued in the vicinity of Fort Aijal, and that Captain Shakespear, the Political Officer of the Southern, or Bengal, hills, had been asked to assist the Assam officers by a demonstration in the Howlong country. This information was communicated to the Political Officers, Haka and Fort White. On the 10th March Mr. Carey proposed that the Nwengal column should, in the course of its exploration of the Nwengal country, advance to the west as far as Arban peak for the purpose of assisting the officers at Fort Aijal. The Chief Commissioner of Assam having signified his desire that this proposal should be carried out, the column left Mobingyi on the 27th March and reached Nikwè's village (Nikuola) on the 3rd April, encountering no opposition on the way. At Nikwè's village, which is described by Captain Shakespear as a "cave of Adullam" and the headquarters of all the most lawless spirits of the surrounding country, the Political Officer seized two murderers and imposed a fine on the

village for harbouring them. The column then started on its return to Burma with the intention of completing its season's work by the visitation of the Nwengal and Whelno country. During its absence, however, news had been received from the Bengal Government that the rising in the Southern Lushai country had assumed serious proportions, and the importance of co-operation by a Burma column was strongly urged. Telegrams were accordingly sent after the Burma column instructing it to advance, if possible, as far as Daokhoma, in the heart of the Southern Lushai country and the centre of the rising. These telegrams did not reach the column until it had returned 18 miles from Nikwè's village on its way to Fort White and had nearly exhausted its rations. The column was therefore unable to turn round at once and start for Daokhoma, and was compelled to return to Botong, the most western Burma post in the Chin country, to ration itself. It was then decided, notwithstanding the extreme difficulty of the operation, that Captain Rose and Mr. Carey should take the column back over the Chin hills into the heart of the Lushai country, and should effect a junction with the Bengal troops. Daokhoma was fixed on by the Lushai officers as the point for concentration. The column left Botong on 21st April, reached Lalbura on the 30th, having destroyed Nikwè's village *en route*, and arrived at Daokhoma on the 3rd May. The distance from Botong to Daokhoma is 104 miles, and the march was a very trying one owing to the heavy rains, the almost impassable nature of the country and the difficulty of obtaining water. On the 4th of May Captain Shakespear arrived at Daokhoma. The combined forces proceeded to destroy Daokhoma, Kanglova, Lalruma and other villages which had joined in the revolt. There were a few skirmishes, but no casualties were suffered by our troops. Lungleh was reached on 13th May, and the column then returned to Burma *viâ* Chittagong. The operations were carried out in a manner reflecting much credit on all concerned. The column marched 104 miles in 12 days through an unknown and hostile country across several lofty mountain ranges at the most trying period of the year. Captain Shakespear characterised the march as "marvellous," and said that "in spite of fearful difficulties" it "has completely overawed my Lushais and relieved me of all anxiety for the present. I am deeply grateful for all their efforts." The exceptionally good work done by the Military and Civil Officers was commended by Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief.

Result of the year's operations

10. The following extracts from Mr. Carey's report summarize the chief results attained by the operations of 1891-92 :—

"The hitherto unknown and unexplored tracts inhabited by the Thadoes, Nwitès, Yoes, Whelnoes, and Nwengals have been explored and placed in the maps. The number and size of the villages have been ascertained. * * * The whole of the northern tracts having been explored and the people reduced to comparative order, it is to be expected that no more extensive operations will be necessary, and I hope that for the future the large columns and forced marches of the past will be succeeded by small parties accompanying the Political Officers on tour, which means short stages and frequent halts The Kanhaw and Siyin tribute has been collected. The Thado, Nwitè, and Yoe tribute question has had to stand over until the orders of India are received on the Burmo-Manipur boundary question. The Whelno and Nwengal tribute is included this year in the Tashon tribute * * *

"Since the date of my return to the Chin Hills, 5th November 1891, 135 slaves have been recovered. This number comprises 86 Burmans and Kalè Chins, 15 Manipuris and Nagas, and 34 Chins of various clans. To the number must be added 24 Chins and 31 Burman slaves recovered by Captain Rose between the months of April and November 1891 during the time he was Political Officer. The total number of slaves recovered during the year is thus 190. of these 88 have been recovered from the Siyins, 22 from the Kanhaws, 11 from the Thadoes, 11 from the Nwitwès, 36 from the Yahows and Whelnoes, and 20 from the Nwengals. The slave difficulty may now be considered as settled, and although 25 or so Burmans are still unaccounted for, I believe that the majority of those wish to remain where they are * * *

"A mule road to Lenacot from Fort White (80 miles) has been made. From Lenacot a branch road has been made running north-west through the Yoe tract to the Nwitè country (50 miles). From Lenacot the road has been continued north to Shuganu in the Manipur plain, hence a mule road is now open from Manipur on the north straight

through to Haka on the south. From Lenacot to Yazagyo a trade route has been re-opened (61 miles). The main road to Falam has been completed with the exception of a bridge across the Nankathè river. The two roads to Sagyilaing have been repaired and continued to Mobingyi and several other Chin tracks and paths have been repaired and improved. All this most excellent road work has been accomplished by the 4th Madras Pioneers. I have directed the villages within the limits of which the roads pass to keep them in a proper state of repair. Later on it will be necessary to furnish Chiefs with the requisite tools for this work.

"No less than 17 villages have been punished, the fines usually taking the form of guns and other arms and the confiscation of live-stock, though I have at times resorted to the arrest of Chiefs and wholesale confiscation of the village live-stock and in one case the burning of 18 houses. Wire-cutters, camp-thieves, and two murderers have also been arrested during the year as well as several slave-owners. All offences committed by the Chins either in Burma proper or in the Chin Hills are entered in a Black-book, and I am gradually getting even with the offenders. Two important crimes have been satisfactorily settled. In the first case, out of 12 Yoes raided a year ago by Yahows, I recovered 11, the twelfth is dead; the raided property I made the village of Taunghwè disgorge. In the second case, two head-hunters carried of five heads and I arrested both murderers 75 miles from Fort White. * * * *

"A decided advance has been made in our relations with the Chins; no raids have been committed by the Northern Chins either in the hills or in Burma; thieves and wire-cutters have been surrendered by the Chiefs; and lastly, and by far the most significant fact of all, a large gang of Chin coolies accompanied the Lushai Relief column through an enemy's country to Lungleh The petty rising in the Nwengal country and the two murders which followed on the line of communication must not be taken as exhibiting the popular feeling in the hills as the misbehaviour was purely local. The thorough pacification of savage tribes must be accompanied by occasional outbursts of this nature, but when it is remembered that for a large number of years the Chins preyed on the plains with the utmost daring and with utter disregard of life, it will be, I think, admitted that their present behaviour is satisfactory and that they have accepted the inevitable far sooner than might have been expected.

"Perhaps the revival of the old trade between Chinland and Burma has been one of the most successful attainments of the season. The Siyins visit Kalemyo in scores and sometimes as often as three times a week to purchase cloth, salt, and beads in the bazaar. Kalemyo traders hawk their wares in Siyin villages. The Kanhaws and Thadoes are trading most freely at Yazagyo; salt is the chief article they purchase * * *

"Owing to the good behaviour of the Chins and the understanding which exists between the Government and the Chins it has been deemed safe to withdraw the military posts of Yazagyo, Auktaung, Khampat, and Tummu. * * *

"The Kalè State a short while back was considered incapable of paying its tribute of Rs. 19,000. The taxes collected this year far exceed this sum, and immigration into the Kalè State is as steady now as was emigration in 1888 and 1889. With confidence fully restored the Kalè subdivision will yield far larger revenues, not only from land-taxes, but also from the forests which cover the low hills."

These extracts afford materials for judging of the work done in the Northern Chin country during the open season of 1891-92. The thanks of the Administration are due to the Military and Civil officers who conducted the operations and to whose untiring energy and zeal it is due that such excellent results were achieved. Among the many officers who did good work Captain Rose and Captain Stevens and Mr. Carey and Mr. Sherman may be mentioned as having rendered specially valuable service.

Southern Chin tribes administered from Haka.

Position of affairs in the Southern Chin Hills at the end of the season 1890-91.

11. The tribes controlled from Haka are the Tashons, Hakas, Tlantlangs, Yokwas, and Baungshès. These tribes were administered during 1891-92 by Lieutenant D. J. C. Macnabb, Assistant Commissioner. At the close of the operations of 1890-91 the position of affairs in the Chin Hills controlled by Mr. Macnabb was as follows. The Hakas and Yokwas who live in the immediate vicinity of Haka were thoroughly well disposed. The Baungshès who had committed several outrages in 1890 had been punished for their misdeeds and had been brought to a certain extent under control. The attitude of the Tashons was on the whole friendly, although they were disposed to regard themselves as a power dealing on equal terms with the British Government. The Tlantlangs, who had in April 1891 made a treacherous and unprovoked attack

on a British column, had to some extent submitted themselves to the Political Officer, but owing to the lateness of the season it had not been found possible to bring all their villages under subjection.

Affairs in the rains of 1891.

12. During the rains of 1891 the Chin hills administered from Haka were free from disturbance. In October 1891 Mr. Macnabb paid a visit to Rangoon accompanied by 19 Chins—Chiefs and their followers. The object of the visit was the same as the object of Maung Tun Win's visit with the party of Northern Chins which was mentioned in paragraph 4 of this report. The Chiefs were shown the sights of Rangoon, were addressed by the Chief Commissioner, were present at a parade of troops, and returned to their homes after a few days' stay in Rangoon.

Scheme of operations for 1891-92

13. The scheme of operations for the open season of 1891-92 provided for the visitation of the Baungshè, Tlantlang, and Tashon country by three columns, denominated the Baungshè, Tlantlang, and Tashon columns. The Baungshè column was to consist of 100 British and 150 Native troops with two guns. The column was to complete its tour at the beginning of January, was to leave a detachment in the Baungshè country, and was then to be brought up to a strength of 100 British and 175 Native troops with two guns and was to form the Tlantlang column. The Tlantlang column was to visit the Tlantlang country, to leave a post in that country, and to return to Haka early in February. The Tashon column was then to be formed, in part of the returned Tlantlang column, and was to contain a strength of 100 British and 175 Native troops with two guns. It was to visit the Tashon country and establish a post at Falam. The Baungshè column was not a punitive column. Its objects were the same as those of the Northern Chin columns as set forth in paragraph 6 of this report. The Tlantlang column was primarily a punitive column. Its objects were to thoroughly subdue the Tlantlang country and to insist upon the payment of the fines imposed last year upon certain villages as a punishment for attacking our column. Mr. Macnabb was instructed to give a moderate time to each village for the payment of the fine, and if the fine was not paid within that time to levy it by force After the column had performed this part of its task the Political Officer was to make arrangements as in the Baungshè country for the selection of Chiefs, the grant of preliminary sanads, and the payment of tribute. The operations to be performed by the Tashon column formed the most important part of the season's work. As has already been observed the Tashons had not yet been subjugated, and regarded themselves as more or less the equals of the British authorities. They occupy a central position in the Chin Hills, are probably the most powerful Chin tribe between Sandoway and Manipur, and have made tributaries of several adjoining tribes. The policy which it was determined to pursue with reference to the Tashons was not to break their power, but to teach them that we are their masters, to convert them into tributaries, to strengthen their authority, and to control their tributary tribes through them. With this object it was decided that the Tashon column from Haka and the Nwengal column from Fort White should march into the Tashon country, meet at Falam, the headquarters of the tribe, and establish a strong permanent post there. After Falam had been occupied the Political Officers of the Southern and Northern Hills were to discuss the arrangements to be made for the future management of the tribe and to collect as full information as possible as to the nature and extent of the authority exercised by the Tashons over their tributaries. The Political Officer of the Southern Hills was then to issue sanads to the Chiefs similar in other respects to those issued to other tribes, and providing further for the maintenance of their authority over their tributaries.

Baungshè column.

14 On the 25th December the Baungshè column started from its base, Minywa. It consisted of 100 rifles of the King's Royal Rifles, 65 men, with two guns, of No. 8 Mountain Battery, 120 men of the 12th Regiment (2nd Burma Battalion) M.I., and 50 men of the 4th Madras Pioneers. Major Gunning of the King's Royal Rifles was in command and Mr. Macnabb was Political Officer. The column first marched to Tônwa, where several Chiefs came in with offers of submission.

Among them was the Chief of Lotaw, a village which had declined to obey the Political Officer's orders during the rains. The column then marched south to Shurkwa, and thence to Lotaw, which was fixed on as the base for further operations. From Lotaw an advance was made to Lungo, which is the southernmost part of the Baungshè country and almost touches on the Chinmè country, which is administered by the Assistant Commissioner, Yawdwin. Some fears were entertained that the Lungo Chiefs would offer resistance, but the Political Officer succeeded in inducing them to submit peaceably. From Lungo the column marched back to Lotaw by a route different from that taken on the march southwards, receiving the submission of the villages on the line of march. On this march the column crossed the Kaphrengklang at a height of 9,500 feet, the highest altitude reached by a column in these hills. The peak of Kaphrengklang is some 10,000 feet high. From Lotaw the greater part of the column with the Political Officer returned to Haka, which was reached on the 30th January. A detachment of 100 men was left at Lotaw for the purpose of exploring the surrounding country. In February and March Mr. Tuck, Assistant Superintendent of Police, who was attached to the post, was engaged in visiting all the villages in the neighbourhood, collecting tribute, and issuing sanads. At the end of March the detachment returned to Haka. Shortly before its withdrawal the only collision with Chins which occurred in the Baungshè country took place. Much difficulty was found in procuring transport, and finally when the column was at Shurkwa the Chief of Shurkwa flatly refused to supply coolies. On the 29th March Mr. Tuck visited the village with an escort of 70 rifles for the purpose of enforcing the demand for coolies. On the party entering the village armed Chins began to collect, and before long the party was surrounded by an excited and threatening crowd of some hundreds of armed Chins, who threw stones at the sepoys, struck them, and even pointed their guns at them. Every effort was made to induce the Chins to lay down their arms, but in vain, and it consequently became necessary for the troops to open fire in self-defence. The Chins began firing simultaneously, and an encounter took place, which ended in the defeat of the Chins with a loss of 35 killed and 20 wounded. Our loss was one sepoy killed and one wounded. This collision which, though much to be regretted, was unavoidable was the only event which marred the peaceful character of the operations in the Baungshè country. Much good work was done during the three months that the column was at work. The whole of the Baungshè country was visited; some 33 villages submitted and paid tribute at the rate of Re. 1 a house, partly in cash and partly in kind; and Chiefs were selected and appointed. In addition 25 Burman slaves were released from captivity, and the mule track was made from Shurkwa to Minywa, a distance of some 65 to 70 miles.

Tlantlang column.

15. The second part of the operations in the Southern Chin country consisted in visiting the Tlantlang country. The column deputed for this task set out from Haka on the 4th February. The column consisted of 100 men of the King's Royal Rifles, 150 men of the 12th Regiment (2nd Burma Battalion) M.I., 150 men of the 39th Garhwalis, 25 men of the 4th Madras Pioneers, and two guns. Major Browne, D.S.O., 39th Garhwalis, was in command, and Mr. Macnabb was Political Officer. As has been mentioned in paragraph 13 the first object of the column was to collect the fines imposed on the villages concerned in the attack on our troops in April 1891, and the Political Officer had, before the column started, sent notices to the villages demanding payment of the fines. These notices had, however, no effect. The column arrived at Hmunlipi, the first village to be punished, on the 8th of February, and finding it deserted occupied it without resistance, although a party of armed Chins were seen moving off as the advance guard marched in. Whilst the Political Officer was negociating with some of the villagers for the payment of the fine, which, like all the fines, was levied in guns, the village was fired by, it is believed, some of the Darjiling coolies who had been of the party attacked in April 1891. The column then took up a position on a spur above the crossing of the La-aw-var stream, where the column was surprised last year, it being found to command the village of Hriankan which was the next village

to be punished. The village was summoned to pay the fine of 40 guns which had been assessed on it, but sent in only three guns. As it was known to be difficult of access and stockaded it was decided to shell it. This was done and the village was then rushed. No resistance was met, and during the day some more guns were brought in. On the 12th the column marched to Tao, which village, profiting by the experience of Hmunlipi and Hriankan, brought in its fine of guns on the road. On the next day the Political Officer met Captain Shakespear, Superintendent of the Southern Lushai Hills, and discussed border matters with him. The column then made a short tour to the south and returned to Hriankan. This village and the village of Tunzan failed to surrender the full number of guns demanded of them, and a house for each gun short of the demand was burnt in each village as a punishment. The column then marched through the southern part of the Tlantlang country to Dawn and Klangpi, and from thence returned in two bodies to Haka, which was reached on the 4th March. A detachment of 100 men was left at La-aw-var to perform duties similar to those performed by the Shurkwa post in the Baungshè country. This detachment remained at La-aw-var during March and April. The operations of the Tlantlang column were carried out in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. Its object was fully attained almost without bloodshed, only one Chin having been shot by an ambuscading party at Hriankan Some 21 villages were visited by the column, all fines imposed were paid or punishment was inflicted for non-payment, the whole Tlantlang tribe was completely subjugated, tribute was levied in the villages visited, and Chiefs were selected for appointment.

Tashon column.

16. The third part of the operations in the Southern Chin Hills consisted in visiting the Tashon country and occupying Falam. This, as has been already remarked, was the most important work done in the Chin Hills in 1891-92. For the last two years columns have visited Falam, and in March 1890 the Chiefs had nominally submitted to us; but we had never even entered their capital village, nor had we been in a position really to assert our authority, and throughout the Chin country the Tashons were regarded as powerful rivals to ourselves. They had, however, never shown any active hostility towards us, and the Political Officer was accordingly instructed to spare no effort to carry out the programme peaceably and to avoid recourse to military force. As the Tashons and their tributaries were supposed to be able to muster 10,000 fighting men, the column employed to visit their country was an exceptionally strong one, numbering altogether 750 men, in round numbers, with four guns. One-half of the column marched from Haka accompanied by Mr. Macnabb, the other half from Fort White accompanied by Mr. Carey. The Haka portion of the column started from Haka on the 10th March, the Fort White portion from Fort White on the same day. The Haka, or Tashon, column was commanded by Major Howlett, 12th Regiment (2nd Burma Battalion) M.I., and consisted of 100 rifles of the King's Royal Rifles, 150 rifles of the 12th Regiment (2nd Burma Battalion) M.I., 62 men of No. 8 Bengal Mountain Battery, and 50 men of the Madras Pioneers. For some time before the column started the outlook was most warlike, and spies whom Mr. Macnabb had sent to Falam were compelled to return. The information obtained at this period by Mr. Carey fully corroborated that obtained by Mr. Macnabb, and there is no doubt that the Falam Chiefs intrigued with both the Hakas and the Siyins for the purpose of bringing about a general insurrection, but failed to win over either of these tribes. This failure shows that we have a real hold over both the Hakas and the Siyins. Failing in this attempt, and influenced, probably, by information as to the strength of the British column, the Tashons appear to have given up all thoughts of resistance, sent a message to that effect, and promised that the troops would not be opposed. Marching from Haka on the 10th March, the Tashon column was met on the 12th by a deputation of Falam Chiefs, and arrived on the 13th at the camp near Falam occupied in former expeditions, where it was met by more Chiefs. At this point the Political Officer told the Falam Chiefs for the first time that we intended to occupy their village. To this the Chiefs, as was to be expected,

offered strong objections, but they made no display of actual hostility. Keeping the principal Chiefs with them as a safeguard, the troops advanced on the village with all military precautions, it being impossible to see the village until quite close to it. No resistance was, however, encountered, and the village was peaceably occupied. The next day the Nwengal column which had camped by the Nankathè joined the Haka column, and an interview was held with the principal Chiefs by Mr. Carey and Mr. Macnabb. The Chiefs were then informed of the intentions of Government, namely, that a permanent post was to be established at Falam, and that the Tashons must submit to the orders of the Political Officer. They were told that so long as they remained loyal they would be supported by Government, and that their authority over their tributaries would be upheld. A detachment of troops was placed at Falam, and the work of building the post was commenced. The Tashon column then left Falam on the 20th March, made a tour through the country to the north-west occupied by Yahao, Lyenlyum and Lushai tribes, and returned to Falam on the 2nd April. The march was undisturbed by any untoward incident, the reception of the column being most friendly throughout.

General result of the season's work in the Southern Chin Hills.

17. With the return of the Tashon column to Falam the expeditionary work of 1891-92 in the Southern Chin country came to an end. The result of the operations is summed up in the following extract from Mr. Macnabb's report :—

"I will now consider the results of this open season's operations as a whole. To do this it will be necessary to review our previous situation in the Southern Chin Hills. We occupied the important post of Haka, and to secure our communications the small post of Rawvan. Our real influence cannot be said to have extended much more than 12 or 14 miles around Haka and from Haka along the road to Burma, although the Yahaos even had given us trouble as late as March 1891. Compare this with our position today. From the banks of the Nankathè (as far north as latitude 23° 15′) to the marches of the Chinmè country in latitude 21° 45′ to the south and from Burma to the east right up to the Tipi or Koladyne and Tao-var on the west, we have thoroughly established our authority, not a village of any real importance having been left unvisited. The Baungshès have been brought to heel, the Tlantlangs severely punished for their last year's outbreak, and the Tashons dominated once and for all by the establishment of a permanent post at Falam. New lines of communication have been opened out, *i.e.*, a traced mule track from Kanchong to Haka, and a mule track from Minywa to Shurkwa, and, thanks to the policy which gave us troops sufficient to deter the tribes from opposition, all this has been accomplished without bloodshed except in the solitary instance of Shurkwa."

The results attained in the year's work are most satisfactory and reflect the highest credit on the columns and on the Military and Civil Officers who conducted the operations.

Southern Chin tribes administered from Yawdwin.

The last section of the Chin country consists of the part lying to the south of the Baungshè country and controlled by the Assistant Commissioner, Yawdwin. During the open season of 1891-92 Lieutenant Tighe was engaged in touring through this country. The objects of his tour were to collect tribute, to visit the Chinmè country hitherto unknown and bring the Chinmès under subjection, to visit the Yindu and Chinbôn countries, and to generally consolidate British influence amongst the Chins living between the western border of the Yawdwin subdivision of the Pakôkku district and the Arakan Yoma range. The column which formed Mr. Tighe's escort consisted of 70 rifles under Lieutenant Ray, of the 7th Bengal Infantry. On the 3rd of January a start was made, and, accompanied by numerous Chin Chiefs from their mountain villages, the column entered the hills. A base was established as a first measure at Chaungzôn, and from this point the valleys of the Yaw and North Maung were visited. The behaviour of the Chins was all that could be desired, the tribute imposed the preceding year was paid up in full, principally in kind, and the Chiefs were unanimous in promising to abide by our conditions and rules. Mr. Tighe then advanced to Oniluntung. This had been the base of last year's operations, and was selected as the advanced base for the present operations in the Chinmè country. The next few days were spent in visiting the villages in the vicinity. The Chins about this place were very friendly and visited the

camp in large numbers. From this point messengers were sent to the first Chinmè village to endeavour to bring in some of the headmen and also to give them due notice of our approach, which was intended to be quite peaceful unless we should be attacked. The messengers returned about the 29th January with three Chinmè headmen, who tendered their submission and offered to guide the column. A start was then made for the previously unvisited Chinmè country. The first village reached was Bawông. A halt of a few days was made at Bawông and a durbar was held at which the Chiefs of 12 large Chinmè villages were present. Our conditions were explained and all present acquiesced in them. From Bawông several of the neighbouring villages were visited and an advance was then made on Khreum, a large village which had refused to come in. On arrival at the village, which consisted of some 150 to 200 houses, it was noticed that every preparation had been made to resist and that the place was swarming with armed men. At the last moment, however, the Chiefs submitted and no collision took place. From Khreum the column returned through another part of the Chinmè country to its base, Onilumtung. The Chinmè tribe is reported to be a sort of connecting link between the Baungshès and the Chinbôks, and inhabits the sources of the Eastern Môn, called here the Thetlaung. The tribe of Chins inhabiting the western branch is known as Yindu and extends beyond the watershed of the Arakan Yomas, and even, it is said, across the Kaladan, called here the Otlaung. On the 10th February the column moved to Bawquiyun (Kitchen's peak), whence it visited the Chinbôks living about the Chè and Southern Maung valleys and such portions of the Chinmè country as were still unvisited. At the end of February the column returned to its headquarters after a very successful season's work.

Public Works in the Chin hills.

18. During the year under report two Public Works divisions were formed in the Chin hills—

(*a*) the Northern Chin Hills division with headquarters at Tiddim,

(*b*) the Southern Chin Hills division with headquarters at Haka,

and a considerable amount of work was done in making and improving communications and in erecting buildings.

Communications.

19. As regards communications the work done was as follows:—

(i) *Mule track from Kanchaung on the Nankathè or Manipur river to Haka.*—During the winter of 1890-91 a survey for a mule track to connect Sihaung at the junction of the Nankathè and Myittha rivers with Haka was undertaken. It was then found that boats could all the year round proceed up the Nankathè or Manipur river as far as Kanchaung; a mule track was therefore traced from Kanchaung towards Haka. The trace was carried as far as Hanta before the season's operations closed. During the winter of 1891-92 this trace was carried on to Haka and a mule track 6 feet wide was opened over the whole distance. This road is now complete with the exception of a bridge over the Nankathè stream between Haka and Hanta. Wire rope for the provision of a flying bridge has been sent up. The distance from Kanchaung to Haka is about 51 miles.

(ii) *Kan-Haka road.*—This road, which was practically completed during the previous year, has been further improved. It is an improvement of an old Chin path made fit for mule traffic.

(iii) *Road Hanta to Falam.*—On the completion of the road from Kanchaung to Haka the improvement of the existing Chin path from Hanta to Falam was ordered. Work was begun towards the close of the official year and a portion of the road was improved.

(iv) *Road Falam to Fort White, 40 miles.*—Some work was done on this road by the pioneers from Fort White as far as the village of Longbu.

(v) *Road Fort White to Tiddim.*—The improvement of the Chin path from Fort White to Tiddim, the new headquarters of the Northern Chin hills, was carried out by the pioneers during the year.

It is now fit for mule traffic the whole way. The distance is 25 miles.

(vi) *General.*—The Kalemyo-Fort White road was maintained in order, and wire rope, pulleys, &c., were sent up to the Chin hills for the purpose of constructing flying bridges over the following streams:—

(*a*) The Nankathè or Manipur river on the road between Falam and Fort White.

(*b*) The Nankathè stream on the road from Hanta to Haka.

(*c*) The Pao stream on the road between Hanta and Falam.

Present state of communications.

20. The condition of communications on the western frontier at the time of writing this report is as follows:—

(i) There is a good mule track from Kalemyo to Fort White, 26 miles long, ready and in use

(ii) There is a good mule track about 51 miles long from Kanchaung to Haka, ready and in use. The Nankathè stream, however, requires to be bridged. Arrangements are in progress for constructing a flying bridge

(iii) There is a fair mule track from Kan to Haka ready and in use.

(iv) The Chin track from Hanta to Falam is being improved. A flying bridge has to be provided over the Pao stream.

(v) A Chin track, about 40 miles long between Falam and Fort White, is being improved into a mule track, a flying bridge over the Manipur river being provided.

(vi) A Chin track between Fort White and Tiddim is being improved into a track 25 miles long fit for mules.

After the formation of the two Public Works divisions noticed in paragraph 18 considerable progress was made in connection with the construction of permanent accommodation for the troops to be located in the Chin hills. Up to the formation of these two divisions the temporary accommodation required for troops had been provided by the troops themselves or constructed by Public Works Department officers and subordinates from time to time specially deputed for the purpose. The permanent accommodation it is proposed to provide is as follows:—

In the Northern Chin hills—

Barracks for the headquarters and 400 rifles of a Native Infantry regiment at Tiddim.
Barracks for 100 rifles at Fort White.
Barracks for 50 rifles at No. 3 stockade.
Barracks for 50 rifles at Kalemyo.
Barracks for 30 rifles at Kalewa.

In the Southern Chin hills—

Barracks for the headquarters and 400 rifles of a Native Infantry regiment at Haka.
Barracks for the headquarters and 400 rifles at Falam.
Barracks for 100 rifles at Rawvan.
Barracks for 100 rifles at Hanta.
Barracks for 50 rifles at Kanchaung.
Barracks for 150 rifles at Kindat Sakan.

Estimates for providing the necessary accommodation, and amounting in all to over 12 lakhs of rupees, are now before the Government of India. Materials (iron trusses, corrugated iron, &c.) required for these barracks were towards the close of the official year purchased and sent up in part to Kalewa. The work is, however, now suspended under the orders of the Government of India. The Public Works officers appointed to the new divisions were instructed to arrange for the provision of such materials as could be locally procured. They were also instructed to put the existing temporary buildings into a habitable condition for the rainy season of 1892, to construct accommodation for themselves and staff, and to commence work on the houses required for the Political Officers,

Northern and Southern Chin hills, respectively, estimates for which, amounting in each case to Rs. 13,750, had already been sanctioned.

Telegraph lines.

21. The following telegraph lines were constructed in the Chin hills during the year:—

(i) From Haka to Falam—30 miles.
(ii) From Fort White to Tiddim—20 miles.
(iii) From Sihaung to Kanchaung—17 miles.

II.—*Shan States administered by the Commissioner, Central Division.*

The Shan States administered by the Commissioner, Central Division, are Hsawngsūp (Thaungdut) and Sīngkalīng Hkāmti (Zingalein Kanti). Kalè, which was formerly a Shan State, was absorbed in the Upper Chindwin district during the year under report.

Hsawngsūp.

22. The petty State of Hsawngsūp was tranquil during the year of report. The Sawbwa is loyal and administers his State efficiently. In the course of the year he gave evidence of his loyalty by surrendering some dacoits who had taken refuge in the State. Early in 1892 a question arose as to the right to certain salt springs in the vicinity of Kungal Thana on the Manipur frontier. The Sawbwa complained that he was prevented by Manipur officials from getting salt from these springs which he declared to be in his territory. The boundary between Manipur and Burma in this part of the country has been the subject of dispute in former years and was last delimited in 1882 by a Commission under Colonel Johnstone, then Resident in Manipur. In order to decide the question raised by the Hsawngsūp Sawbwa, it is proposed to depute a party at the end of the rains to locate Colonel Johnstone's frontier.

Sīngkalīng Hkāmti.

23. The small Shan State of Sīngkalīng Hkāmti is situated in the extreme north of the Upper Chindwin district, and consists of a narrow strip of land measuring some 70 miles by 20 along the banks of the Chindwin. It is very thinly populated, containing some 15 villages and about 1,100 inhabitants, Shans, Chins, and Kachins. The name of "Hkāmti" is said to have been added to "Sīngkalīng," the original name of the State, under the following circumstances. At the beginning of the present century a tribe of Shans which had been driven from Hkāmti Lōng (Kantigyi) settled in Sīngkalīng Their Chief went to Mandalay, offered to pay tribute, and obtained from the King the title of Sawbwa. A descendant of this man now rules the State under the title of "Ywaôk." For some years before the annexation the State was the scene of continual fighting between rival claimants to the Sawbwaship, and the population has dwindled in consequence. The present Ywaôk, Saw Ni Daung, is laudably anxious to increase the population of his State, and promises settlers freedom from taxation for two years. After two years they are expected to pay the usual tax of the State, namely, Rs. 2 a house, but even this is not very strictly demanded. On the whole the State appears to be well administered by Saw Ni Daung. A sanad has been granted to him in which the tribute of his State is fixed for five years at the nominal rate of Rs. 100 a year.

Kalè.

24. Last year's report contained a narrative of the circumstances which led to the deportation of the former Kalè Sawbwa, and explained the necessity of incorporating the State in the Upper Chindwin district. This was done during the year under report, and Kalè is now a township of the Upper Chindwin. The *ex*-Sawbwa has been released from confinement and is now living as a Government pensioner at Moulmein.

III.—*The Shan States administered by the Commissioner, Northern Division.*

The Shan States administered by the Commissioner, Northern Division, are Mōngmit (Momeik) and, nominally, Hkāmti Lōng (Kantigyi). What was formerly the Shan State of Wuntho was during the year of report absorbed in the Katha and Ye-u districts.

Hkāmti

25. The State of Hkāmti Lōng, which lies on the Assam border to the north of the Kaku Kachin country, has not yet been brought under control. The State is cut off from

all other Shan States by the numerous powerful Kachin tribes beyond the confluence with whom we have not yet come in contact. In February 1892 one Maung Shwe Daung with eight followers came down to Rangoon from Hkāmti Lōng. From information furnished by Shwe Daung it appears that Hkāmti Lōng was originally colonised by Shans from Mogaung. It is governed by five Sawbwas, of whom he is one. Formerly one of these Sawbwas, the Lawkun Sawbwa, was head over the rest and was recognized as the Chief Sawbwa by the Burmese Government. In recent years his authority has diminished, each of the other four Sawbwas regarding himself as independent. In Burmese times the Hkāmti Lōng Sawbwa sent envoys every three or four years to pay homage at Mandalay. These periodical journeys were discontinued about 15 years ago, and Hkāmti Lōng is now almost entirely cut off from Burma, as the journey through the Kaku country is attended with many dangers and difficulties. It is improbable that any attempt will be made in the near future to bring Hkāmti Lōng within the sphere of British administration.

Mōngmit.

26. At the close of last year's operations the question of the future administration of Mōngmit (Momeik) was under consideration. The plan of governing the State by a regent, Saw Maung, who was appointed for five years in 1889, had failed. During his administration the State had been the scene of continual disorder which culminated in the disturbances of which an account is given in last year's report. It was accordingly decided in the year under report to relieve Saw Maung of his duties as regent, and to administer the State directly during the minority of the Sawbwa. Saw Maung made over charge of the State on the 2nd February 1892. The form of administration has been assimilated as closely as possible to that in force in the adjoining district of the Ruby Mines. An Assistant Commissioner is stationed at Mōngmit, and for the time being the State is practically a subdivision of the Ruby Mines district. During the open season of 1892 a column of military police traversed the outlying parts of Mōngmit for the purpose of preventing inroads by Kan Hlaing and his followers from Mongmaw, of generally settling the country, and of delimiting the boundary between Mōngmit and Bhamo. The work of the column was satisfactorily carried out. The State was protected from inroads during the open season, a large number of villages were visited and brought under control, and the Bhamo and Mōngmit boundary was laid down.

Wuntho

27. At the end of the open season of 1891 the position of affairs in Wuntho was as follows. The rebellion which broke out in February 1891 had been crushed, the *ex*-Sawbwa was a fugitive, the people had generally settled down to peaceful avocations, and the country was being administered as part of the Katha district pending the orders of the Government of India as to its future settlement. In the course of 1891 it was decided that the State should be incorporated in the adjoining districts. The course taken was the only one possible under the circumstances. The Sawbwa had rebelled and had been deposed; there was no one to take his place; and the people of Wuntho had readily accepted British administration. The State was accordingly incorporated, part in the Ye-u and part in the Katha district. During 1891-92, notwithstanding the disturbance caused by the fugitive *ex*-Sawbwa, it has been remarkably free from disorder. At the end of the open season of 1890-91 the *ex*-Sawbwa had been driven north and beyond the borders of his lost State, and had taken up his position on the borders of the Kachin hills with a gathering numbering about 150 to 200, including women. From this position he obtained supplies during the rainy season, partly from the villages on the northern border of Mansi, and partly from the Kachins, supplemented by what could be obtained by parties of his followers who raided into the Mansi and Pinlèbu subdivisions and harassed the people. Military posts had been established at Mansi and Manyu, and from these points small expeditions and patrols were sent out, while a company of Karen police was also posted to Mansi to assist in the operations. In June the *ex*-Sawbwa made overtures to the Deputy Commissioner with a view to surrender. In reply he was told that if he surrendered his life would be spared and that he would not be deported to India, but would be permitted to live,

with his family, in some suitable place in Lower Burma. The Deputy Commissioner went to Mansi, and every opportunity was given to the *ex*-Sawbwa of surrendering, but he suddenly broke off the negociations and fled north with his following. His flight was followed by a series of raids on Mansi and Pinlèbu villages, while rumours were current that recruits were joining his band, that they were to be assisted by Chinese and Kachins, and that his return was imminent. Sickness among the garrisons at Mansi and Manyu soon threw the work of pursuit almost entirely on the shoulders of the Karen police, who had several encounters with parties of the rebels, but were unable owing to the unfavourable season to obtain any important success. At the end of the rains arrangements were made for systematic operations. The sick troops of Mansi and Manyu were relieved, a strong party of military police was sent forward from Katha to work north of Mansi, and several columns were sent out. The proceedings of these columns are narrated in Part IV of this report. It may be mentioned here that though they failed to capture the *ex*-Sawbwa they succeeded in reducing his following to a mere handful and in driving them entirely out of the Katha district. The latest news of the *ex*-Sawbwa is that about 14th May he fled across the Irrawaddy above the third defile and made his way from Ayeindama *viâ* Pumpien to Samapa in China. In the middle of May a proclamation was issued offering pardon to all his followers except two. This offer resulted in the surrender of many of the rebels, and it may be hoped that the *ex*-Sawbwa will not again succeed in disturbing the peace of the district

IV.—*The outlying portions of the Bhamo and Katha districts to the west of the Irrawaddy.*

Position of affairs at the end of the open season of 1890-91.

28. At the end of the open season of 1890-91 the position of affairs in the Bhamo district to the west of the Irrawaddy was as follows. The furthest position which we occupied in the south was the Jade Mines post, which had been established as a consequence of the advance of the troops to the Jade Mines in pursuit of the elder Sawbwa of Wuntho. Further south along our western border Captain O'Donnell had recently punished the Sana-Latawng Kachins for their persistently defiant attitude in harbouring Po Saw and his crew of Chinese ruffians, who were supposed to have followed in the steps of the elder Wuntho Sawbwa. Although the latter had fled, he had left behind him the younger Sawbwa who, hiding in the tract near and round Taungthònlòn, harassed the borders of North Wuntho. Further south lies the Kaukkwè valley. This had been much disturbed, but the sharp punishment meted out to the Gônga and Nankoh Sawbwas, and the submission of the most powerful Maingtaungwa Sawbwa, Sinwawa, had, it was trusted, resulted in the complete pacification of the country round the Lower Kaukkwè. The Lèka Sawbwa, too, had submitted to last year's Lèka column, had paid fines, and had generally shown a desire to behave peaceably in future. Such was the aspect of affairs at the end of the open season. The rainy season, however, brought with it considerable modifications. The old, submissively disposed, Lèka Sawbwa was murdered by a rival, Kalingwa, who usurped his authority, and was not prepared to accept ours. Lower down the Kaukkwè, although the lesser Sawbwas seem generally to have been cowed by the action of the columns, the Maingtaungwa Sawbwa, presuming on his strength, proceeded to settle differences with a neighbouring Sawbwa by burning his village in spite of our orders forbidding him to take the law into his own hands.

Programme of operations.

29. The following extract from a minute by Sir A. Mackenzie states the policy which it was proposed to adopt in dealing with this part of the country and the manner in which that policy was to be carried out:—

"In the Bhamo district there is a vast amount of work before us which must be undertaken on a bold and comprehensive scale if it is ever to be done at all. There are numerous tribes of Kachins lying within our undoubted administrative boundaries who have not yet been visited or brought into order and subjection. Occasional columns have gone out to punish raids and burn villages, but we have never yet told the Chiefs

definitely what our claims are and what their position is to be. To the south of Mogaung, through which the railway is to run, the tribes have not been visited at all. Along the course of the Kaukkwè some of them were visited last season with the best results, but the whole of the tribes lying to the west of the Irrawaddy must at the earliest possible date be made to know that they are residents of a British district and must obey the orders of the District Officers. The same remark applies to all the tribes of the Shwegu subdivision, and to all those of the Mogaung subdivision lying between Mogaung and the borders of Katha, Wuntho, and the Upper Chindwin. All these tribes, living inside the circle of our settled villages, and forming, while uncontrolled, a standing menace to the peace of those villages, must at all hazards be taught that they are tributary and subject, and made amenable to orders. I have explained this to many of the Chiefs who were brought in to meet me at Bhamo, and the local officers anticipate no serious difficulty in giving effect to this policy. I told the Chiefs that every village would have to pay tribute with reference to the number of its households. I did not propose to bring them under the usual thathameda tax imposed in plains villages, because they were poor and uncivilized, but a moderate tax at rates varying from 8 annas to Rs. 2 a household must be assessed by the local officers on each tribe as soon as possible. This tribute the Sawbwas must agree to pay in regularly as may be prescribed. I told the Chiefs that we should not interfere with the village customs or with the usual payments, whether in money, kind, or labour, received by them from their tribesmen. Petty crime and civil disputes would continue to be settled according to tribal custom, but they were to report without fail to the nearest British officer all cases of serious crime, such as murder, dacoity, and robbery, or any preparation to commit such offences. They were also to do their best to arrest offenders of these classes and to help in their arrest. They were to refrain from blood feuds and inter-tribal raids, and to submit any differences with neighbouring tribes to the decision of our officers. They were to keep open and maintain such hill roads as might be pointed out to them. I undertook to give each Sawbwa a certificate or sanad recognizing him as Chief and setting out his obligations, and said we would support him in the exercise of his authority so long as he used it properly and behaved well. This last concession will go far to enlist the Sawbwas on our side; for at present the feeling of some of the tribes is very democratic and the position of some of the Sawbwas is not as secure as they would like it to be. We shall not of course interfere with tribal custom in the matter of selecting a Sawbwa, but we must have some responsible headman to deal with, and it is good policy to strengthen the hands of the headman *de facto* Villages lying within the district limits in places where they are not exposed to trans-frontier raids should as a rule be disarmed as far as guns are concerned. Well-behaved Chiefs might be allowed a few guns, but all firearms left should be registered and numbered."

Columns employed.

30. In order to carry out this policy one military and four civil columns were employed to the west of the Irrawaddy during the open season of 1891-92. These columns were—

(i) the Maingkhwan column, a military column, consisting of 50 rifles, 2nd Devonshire Regiment, 100 rifles, 33rd Regiment (3rd Burma Battalion) M.I., 56 men, No. 6 Bombay Mountain Battery, with two guns under Major the Hon'ble A. E. Dalzell, with Mr. Symington, Extra Assistant Commissioner, as Civil Officer. The task assigned to this column was to visit the Hukong valley;

(ii) the Mogaung column, consisting of 100 military police under Lieutenant Master with Captain Wilson as Civil Officer. This column was to work the country south of Mogaung;

(iii) the Indawgyi column, consisting of 50 military police under Mr. Duff, Inspector of Police, which was to operate in the tract north and north-west of Indawgyi;

(iv) the Kaukkwè column, consisting of 150 military police under Chutter Singh, Assistant Commandant, with Mr. Cloney, Extra Assistant Commissioner, as Civil Officer, which was to visit the valley of the Kaukkwè;

(v) a column consisting of 25, subsequently increased to 80, military police under Mr. Skinner, Assistant Superintendent of Police, which was to visit the Kachin hills to the north of the Katha district;

(vi) the South-East column, consisting of 150 military police under Lieutenant Hogg with Mr. Rae as Civil Officer, which was to visit the hills in the south of the Bhamo district. The country in which this column was to operate is on the east bank of

the Irrawaddy; but it is dealt with in this part of the report as the nature of its work was similar to that of the other columns mentioned above.

Instructions issued to columns.

31. The instructions issued to Civil Officers with columns were in accordance with the policy set forth in Sir A. Mackenzie's minute, quoted above. They were directed to visit all the villages in the area coming within the scope of their operations, to fix the tribute of each village, to disarm villages as a general rule, guns being left only to villages which had shown special loyalty or which occupied an exposed position on the frontier, to make enquiries as to the existence of slavery, and to collect information regarding the cultivation of the poppy and the consumption of opium. In the sanads were to be entered the area of the Sawbwa's jurisdiction, the number of guns, if any, which the village was to be suffered to possess, the rate per household at which tribute was to be paid, and the place at which it was to be paid. Civil Officers were instructed to fix tribute on a consideration of the circumstances of villages, 8 annas being prescribed as the minimum and the principle being laid down that tribute was imposed not for the purpose of raising revenue but as a visible token of submission. The sanads were to be issued as a general rule to the existing Sawbwas, the people being consulted where there were rival claimants to the post. Finally, the sanad guaranteed to the Sawbwa the support of Government in the exercise of his lawful power, empowered him to settle tribal disputes, and authorized him to collect customary dues and to exact customary services. On the other hand it required him to keep order within his boundaries, to report murders, dacoities, and robberies to the nearest post, to arrest notorious criminals within his jurisdiction, to obey the orders of the Deputy Commissioner and Subdivisional Officers, and to keep communication open between his and adjacent villages.

It remains to record the operations of the columns referred to in paragraph 30. In the following paragraphs the country is dealt with from the north southwards, beginning with the Hukong valley at the top and ending with the Shwegu subdivision at the bottom of the Bhamo district.

Maingkhwan column.

32. The work of the Maingkhwan column consisted in the visitation of the Hukong valley, which till 1892 lay entirely outside the sphere of our control. The column left Mogaung on the 21st December 1891 and marched *viâ* Laban to Maingkhwan, the chief Shan village in the Hukong valley, which was reached on the 9th January. At Maingkhwan, as had been pre-arranged, the column met a column from Assam. Exploration was conducted throughout the Hukong valley and the Amber Mines region, the India-rubber tract towards 'Ntup' Nsa was visited, and the various Sawbwas were called in. The column was accompanied by Dr. Noetling, of the Geological Survey, with a view to an examination of the amber mines, and by Mr. O'Bryen, Assistant Conservator of Forests, who was deputed to examine the India-rubber forests. From Maingkhwan, after visiting the valley in all directions, the column passed down the Chindwin and marched to the Jade Mines from the west, ending its tour at Mogaung on 7th March 1892, when it was amalgamated with the Irrawaddy column and employed in rationing Sadôn. The chief work done by the column was exploration and preparation for our future control of the Hukong valley. The Hukong valley is surrounded by hills and is traversed by several rivers, the principal of which is the Tannai, the Kachin name for the Chindwin. The principal products of the valley are paddy, rubber, and amber. Gold, also, is washed for in several streams. The population of the valley is almost entirely Kachin. The Kachins in these parts are reported to lose their turbulent qualities in descending from the hills and to become lazy and peaceable like the Shans who formerly inhabited the valley and whom they have gradually ousted. The valley is almost entirely free from crime or disturbance of any kind. Each village is governed by its Sawbwa or Agyiwa. In the rare cases in which a serious crime is committed the leading headmen combine to punish the offender. In view of the peaceful condition of the valley and of the large amount of administrative work which remains to be done in other parts of the Bhamo district, it is proposed to post-

pone for the present the work of bringing the Hukong valley under direct administration.

Jade Mines tract.

33. The next section of country to the west of the Irrawaddy is the Jade Mines tract. This part of the country was not visited by a column as it was considered expedient to leave its settlement to Inspector Crowther, who had had much experience of Kachins, and was in charge of the post at Sankah. The settlement of the Jade Mines tract proceeded satisfactorily till quite recently when, owing to a misunderstanding of verbal orders, the Sawbwa of Lèma, north-west of Kansi, was arrested by a party of military police. As he was being brought to Sankah the police were ambuscaded. One military police sepoy was shot and two were at first reported missing, but were subsequently found to have died. The Sawbwa made his escape. In spite of this most unfortunate *contretemps* the other Sawbwas appear to have remained quiet; and as the garrison at Sankah has been withdrawn, it is not proposed to do more at present than to try to effect the arrest of the Sawbwa and offending Kachins through the agency of the Kansi Sawbwa, and to wait till the next open season before attempting to punish them.

Mogaung and Indawgyi columns.

34. The work assigned to the Mogaung and Indawgyi columns was the visitation of the Kachin highlands in the vicinity of Indawgyi lake. The more urgent work of hunting down the *ex*-Sawbwa of Wuntho, however, rendered it impossible for them to carry out this programme. Beyond capturing Sinwawa under the circumstances mentioned in the next paragraph they did nothing in the shape of settlement of Kachin tracts, and confined their attention entirely to hunting the Sawbwa out of the neighbourhood of Taungthônlôn, where he had established himself with a considerable following. It is not necessary to recount in detail the marches and countermarches of which the work of the columns consisted. At first, as there was no central authority, the movements of the columns were somewhat disconnected and useless, but a single Civil Officer, Captain Wilson, Assistant Commissioner, having been put in control of all the forces, whether of Bhamo or Katha military police, the operations were conducted to better effect and the Wuntho Sawbwa began to find his position untenable. He was making his way to Lèka to join Kalingwa, when a portion of his following was attacked on the 30th March at the Namôn chaung, south of lake Indawgyi, by part of the Indawgyi column. Six of the rebels were killed and some women of the gang captured. During the rest of the open season the columns continued the pursuit of the *ex*-Sawbwa, but did not succeed in coming in contact with him again. As has been mentioned in paragraph 27 the *ex*-Sawbwa's following has broken up and he himself is believed to have fled to China.

Kaukkwè column.

35. The Kaukkwè valley was at the beginning of the season the scene of combined operations by the Mogaung and Kaukkwè columns The first objects of the operations in this valley were to seize the rebellious Sawbwas, Sinwawa and Kalingwa. In November a portion of the Kaukkwè column proceeded up the Kaukkwè and established a post at Thayetta to keep the valley permanently in check and to serve as a base for the ensuing operations. A combined descent on Maingtaungwa was arranged by the Kaukkwè column from Thayetta and the Mogaung column from Sinbo. The latter column reached the spot first, and by a clever night march, which reflected much credit on Captain Wilson and Lieutenant Master, succeeded in surrounding Sinwawa's house and arresting Sinwawa himself. This effectually disposed of all trouble in that direction. The villagers themselves were glad to get rid of Sinwawa, looking on him as a dangerous firebrand who was leading them to their destruction by inciting them to resist our advance. At this juncture the *ex*-Sawbwa of Wuntho began to give trouble, and the Mogaung column proceeded to the neighbourhood of lake Indawgyi to take part in the operations against him. The Kaukkwè column was therefore left to visit as much of the Kaukkwè valley as possible. This it did, traversing the basin of the Mosit, then striking straight across country to Bhamo, and then moving up along the hills to the west of the third defile to Sinbo. From Sinbo the column returned to Thayetta, punishing Watu for raids on Mantau

en route. From Thayetta the column set out for the Lèka country, where the Kalingwa Sawbwa had to be reduced to subjection. No resistance was offered to the advance of the column, and at first it seemed as if the Kachins would submit, but owing to the influence of Kalingwa they were induced to rise. The column attacked and burnt Lepaigataung, but met with severe resistance, and had ultimately to retire to Thayetta, partly in consequence of sickness, partly because rations were running short. It was harassed during its retirement by the Kachins. There was no doubt that the Kachins looked upon this as a victory, and it became necessary to check immediately and at once the spread of a rising which, had the *ex*-Sawbwa of Wuntho joined his forces to those of Lèka—and there is evidence in the shape of captured letters to show that he was in communication with Kalingwa on the point—might have proved serious. The Kaukkwè column was too weak to act by itself, so a hastily improvised column left Bhamo with Mr. Ross as Civil Officer on the 2nd April 1892 *viâ* the Kaukkwè to co-operate with a military police column from Katha acting *viâ* Mohnyin. The columns converged on Lepargataung on the 16th April. Some opposition was met with at first, but fortunately the column succeeded in killing Kalingwa himself. Upon this active opposition collapsed, and the villagers took to the jungle. The column stayed out some days, searching for and destroying the grain stores of the rebellious villages, and fining and disarming such villages. At the end of April, its work finished, the column returned to Thayetta.

Northern Katha column.

36. The Northern Katha column, consisting of 25 men under Mr. Skinner, Assistant Superintendent of Police, left Katha on the 22nd January 1892 and visited first the Kachin hills round Mohnyin. The column then advanced towards Natmauk. On the 1st February at a distance of some 4 miles from the village the party was ambuscaded by some 50 Kachins. The Kachins were beaten off, but as his force was very weak Mr. Skinner wisely decided to withdraw for reinforcements. The column was brought up to a strength of 80 and then returned to Natmauk, being met on the way by the Natmauk Sawbwa with offers of submission. On the 14th February Natmauk was occupied without opposition, and the following days were spent in collecting the fine which had been imposed as a punishment for the opposition offered to the column. During March, April, and a part of May Mr. Skinner was employed in visiting the Kachin villages coming within the sphere of his operations, collecting tribute, and confiscating guns. The total number of guns collected was 127.

South-Eastern column.

37. The last of the columns employed on operations in the interior of the Bhamo district was the South-Eastern column, which was employed in the hill tracts in the south of the Bhamo district and bordering on the Sinkan valley The column started from Shwegu on the 5th December and spent the following three months in visiting the villages lying within the area covered by its operations. It is unnecessary to record in detail the movements of the column which met with no resistance from the Kachins visited and did a very useful and creditable season's work. It returned to Bhamo at the end of February, having visited 98 villages, collected Rs. 903 in tribute, which was assessed at Re. 1 a house, and confiscated 302 guns. The Kachins displayed great reluctance to part with their guns, but in no case had the Civil officer to employ force to seize them.

V.—*The outlying portion of the Bhamo district to the east of the Irrawaddy.*

Position of affairs in the country to the east of the Irrawaddy.

38. Prior to 1891 little had been done to bring the tribes in the Bhamo district to the east of the Irrawaddy under control. Several expeditions had been sent out from year to year to punish outrages committed by tribes to the south of the Taping, and these tribes had learnt to a certain extent to recognize and respect British authority. The country to the north of the Taping was entirely unvisited save for the reconnaissance made by Captain Eliott and Major Hobday in 1890-91. The necessity of bringing this part of the country under control was forced on us by repeated outrages committed by these tribes. Thus in March 1889 the Ponpat (Lepai) Kachins attacked Ywadaw near Waingmaw,

killed three villagers and carried off two captives. In December 1889 the Sadôns attacked Waingmaw with a force of 300 men and, though beaten off, carried away some captives and the thugyi of Ywadaw. In January 1890 the Kachins of Kasu and Tabôn carried off and enslaved a family living on the Nantabet. In June 1890 the Lashi Kachins of Makaung carried off a Burman from the same neighbourhood. The Kachins of Kwitu and Lakapyang stopped the work of Captain Eliott's party by their hostile attitude. There had been a series of dacoities by Kachins along the Molè chaung. None of these outrages had been punished. Lastly, the elder Sawbwa of Wuntho was reported to be at Sadôn stirring up the tribes to raid and was issuing proclamations for this purpose.

Policy to be pursued.

39. These facts, as well as the experience gained in former years in dealing with wild tribes, showed that it was necessary to bring the tribes along the north-east frontier thoroughly and permanently under control. In dealing with them we had to deal not with nationalities but with congeries of small independent savage communities, having no inter-tribal coherence, whom it was necessary, if permanent peace was to be secured, to dominate and reduce to the position of subjects and tributaries. Another reason for reducing the Kachin hills on the east of the Irrawaddy to order was the circumstance that they served as a screen for the bad characters who were in the habit of collecting on the Yunnan side of the border and making incursions from time to time into British territory. Thus in 1886 Bhamo itself was threatened by a gang of well-armed Kachins and Chinese from this part of the frontier. Mogaung has been repeatedly threatened in recent years and the India-rubber trade has been completely disorganized. All through the cold weather of 1890-91 rumours were rife of movements of armed bands of Chinese Black Flags to the north of Mogaung. The perpetual disturbances and rumours of disturbances which prevailed rendered a revival of trade between Burma and Yunnan on any considerable scale impossible. All the principal routes of that trade pass through the Kachin hills south of the 'Nmaikha, and have hitherto been subject to continual interruption and harassment from unruly Kachins. Finally, the subjugation of the Eastern Kachin tracts was necessary for the purpose of preventing the import into Mogaung, Bhamo, and Upper Burma generally of the vast quantities of illicit opium, liquor, and arms which have since the annexation found their way in from China. In view of these considerations it was decided to deal with the Kachins east of the Irrawaddy in the same manner as with the tribes to the west, that is to say, to reduce them to tributaries and to grant the Sawbwas sanads on the terms summarized in paragraph 31 of this report. The only change to be made was in the case of Sawbwas on caravan routes. These Sawbwas have from time immemorial been in the habit of levying tolls on caravans, and, in return for these subsidies, of keeping up trade roads, repairing bridges, and so on. As it was undesirable to incur their hostility by depriving them of the main source of their income, it was decided, for the present at least, to insert a special clause in their sanads authorizing them to levy tolls and fixing their amount.

Columns employed.

40. In pursuance of the policy indicated in the preceding paragraph, the whole of the north-eastern Bhamo frontier from Namkham to Sadôn was visited during the open season of 1891-92 by four columns. These columns were—

(i) the Sinkan column, composed of 150 Military Police under Captain Atkinson, Battalion Commandant, with Captain Gastrell, Assistant Commissioner, as Civil Officer;

(ii) the Eastern column, composed of 50 Rifles of the 2nd Devon Regiment, 50 Infantry and 30 Mounted Infantry, 33rd (3rd Burma Battalion), M.I., under Captain Preston, 33rd Madras Infantry, with Mr. Ross, Assistant Commissioner, as Civil Officer;

(iii) the North-Eastern column, composed of 75 Rifles and 50 Mounted Infantry, 2nd Devon Regiment, 75 Rifles, 33rd (3rd Burma

Battalion), M.I., 50 Rifles, 23rd Light Infantry, and 56 men of the No. 6 Bombay Mountain Battery with two guns under Captain Davies, 2nd Devon Regiment, with Mr. Hertz as Civil Officer;

(iv) the Irrawaddy Column, composed of 100 Rifles, 2nd Devon Regiment, 200 Rifles, 33rd (3rd Burma Battalion), M.I., 50 Rifles, 23rd Light Infantry, 10 Burma Sappers, and 56 men with two guns of No. 6 Mountain Battery, under Major Yule, 2nd Devon Regiment, with Captain Eliott, Assistant Commissioner, as Civil Officer.

Sinkan column.

41. The operations of the Sinkan column were partly frontier operations, partly operations of a nature similar to those of the columns employed to the west of the Irrawaddy. Its frontier work consisted in visiting the small section of the border in the vicinity of Namkham, the task imposed on it being to ascertain the exact frontier and to treat with the Chinese officials for the capture of the various Burma outlaws who have been harboured for a long time past in the Chinese Shan State of Möngmaw. The column took the field on the 16th January 1892 and proceeded to the frontier in the vicinity of Namkham. The enquiries made there showed that a small triangle of land, two sides of which are formed by the Nammak and Namwan streams, and which has its apex at the juncture of the Nammak and Namwan with the Shweli, has in recent years been tributary to the Chinese Shan State of Möngmaw. While visiting this part of the country Captain Gastrell entered into communication with the Mongmaw Sawbwa, furnished him with a list of the outlaws and dacoits who were known to be harboured in the Möngmaw State, and invited him to meet the British officers and discuss plans of joint action for driving them out. The Sawbwa's replies were not satisfactory. He declined to meet the British officers and denied that there were any dacoits in his jurisdiction. On a list being furnished to him he promised to drive them out, but so far as is known took no action against them. Finally, he sent a verbal message asking that no further letters might be sent to him as he was afraid that he would get into serious trouble with his superiors for corresponding with British officers. The dealings of Captain Gastrell with the Sawbwa illustrate the difficulties of keeping the peace on the frontier in the face of the open or covert assistance rendered to outlaws by the petty border officials on the Chinese side. In the course of the operations Captain Gastrell met Mr. Scott, Superintendent of the Northern Shan States, and Mr. Daniell, Assistant Commissioner, Möngmit, and discussed with them the measures to be taken to guard the frontier in the vicinity of Namkham and Selan. The consultations of these officers lead to the conclusion that one or more posts are probably required at Namkham to control the trade routes to Bhamo and to defend the Mongmit State from trans-frontier irruptions from the north, and at Selan to defend North Theinni from similar irruptions. It will probably be found necessary next cold weather to place posts at one or both of these places.

After completing his investigations near Namkham Captain Gastrell entered on the second or police portion of his work, which consisted in visiting the Kachin hills in the Sinkan valley and issuing sanads, collecting tribute, and licensing and confiscating guns. Appointment orders were issued to 19 Sawbwas, 64 guns were licensed and 44 confiscated, tribute was fixed at 8 annas per household, and Rs. 203-8-0 were collected. On the 23rd March Captain Gastrell was posted to Myitkyina, and Mr. Symington, Extra Assistant Commissioner, who had finished his work with the Maingkhwan column, was attached to the Sinkan column as Civil Officer for the remainder of the season. During the beginning of April Mr. Symington was engaged in the collection of information as to the whereabouts of the dacoit gangs which infested the Sinkan valley. On the 14th April, in conjunction with a party from Möngmit under Mr. Daniell and Mr. Way, an attack was made on the camp of the dacoits at the head of the Sinkan valley. In this attack three dacoits were killed and six prisoners taken. On our side Lieutenant Nelson and several sepoys were wounded. Unfortunately Nga Po and Nga Byu, the leaders of the gang, escaped. The rest

of the season was spent in seeking for information as to the hiding places of these outlaws, but all endeavours to arrest them failed. The enquiries made showed that they were harboured by several villages, the inhabitants of which were accordingly moved to another part of the district under the Village Regulation. This measure will make it very difficult for the dacoits to procure food, and will, it is hoped, lead to their final suppression next open season

Eastern column

42. The operations of the Eastern column consisted in—

(i) visiting the area, east of the third defile, which had not been previously brought under control;

(ii) visiting the section of frontier which lies between Tuku and the southern boundary of the Matin tract.

The column started early in January and performed the first part of its task in fifteen days. The area dealt with was traversed, 23 out of the 32 villages which it contains were visited, Rs. 151-8-0 were collected as tribute, headmen were appointed, and 55 guns were confiscated On the 4th January the column started from Bhamo to complete its season's work. It thoroughly visited all the country along and within the frontier from Tuku to the Matin tract. The Matin tract was left unvisited in pursuance of an arrangement made with the Momein Wun last December that pending the delimitation of the frontier neither Chinese nor British officers should visit it. The country coming within the sphere of the column's operations was thoroughly explored, 90 villages were visited, Rs. 1,638 were collected in tribute, 258 guns were destroyed and 104 were licensed. The column met with no opposition. In the course of its tour it visited some villages to the north of the Manteinkha, a stream running into the Namwan river. The Manteinkha has hitherto been regarded as forming the frontier in this locality, but Mr. Ross found that a small tract of hill country to the north of the Manteinkha had hitherto been entirely independent of the Chinese authorities. This tract he visited, collecting tribute, giving sanads to headmen, and stamping guns.

Nampaung

43. The next section of frontier visited is that lying between the Taping and the Nantabet. Before the proceedings of the North-Eastern column, which visited this tract, are narrated, mention must be made of the events which happened towards the end of the rains at Nampaung, which is included in it. In October persistent rumours were current of intentions on the part of the Chinese to establish military posts on the Taping trade route at the Nampaung, which has of recent years been usually regarded as the boundary in this latitude, and at Mannaung where, in October, we were putting out a military police post of 200 men. In previous years Chinese caravans had been escorted through the Kachin hills in both Chinese and British territory by an adventurer named Ma Wuh Hsiang, who had collected a bodyguard and escorted caravans as a sort of private speculation. No Chinese troops had before 1891 advanced beyond the Nampaung. In October 1891, however, a small body of Chinese troops, said to number some 80 men, crossed the Nampaung stream and established themselves at Lawkugyi and near Myothit, two places considerably to the west of the Nampaung and unquestionably in British territory. As this aggression could not be permitted, a small body of troops and military police was sent out to Mannaung and Myothit at the beginning of November, and letters were sent to the Chinese authorities requesting the withdrawal of the Chinese troops. On the 11th November the Deputy Commissioner with an escort left for the frontier. About 5 miles from Myothit, at a place called Tingsu, a commencement of stockading had been made by the Chinese. They were reported to have withdrawn two days before the Deputy Commissioner arrived. On the 12th the Deputy Commissioner advanced to Sumpaya, close to the Nampaung. The Chinese had erected a small stockade here, but had destroyed it and withdrawn a few days previously. From Sumpaya the Deputy Commissioner advanced to the Nampaung, 2 miles distant, where the Chinese had another small post on the east or, as it was then regarded, the Chinese side of the river. On the 16th November the Deputy Commissioner had an interview with Chang and Huang, the

Commandants of the Manwaing levy, a body of Chinese troops employed in the jurisdiction of the Momein Wun. The Deputy Commissioner explained our intentions to these officers and warned them against advancing beyond the Nampaung. On the following day the Chinese officers returned to Manwaing. A post was then built on the west bank of the Nampaung and garrisoned first with 100 men of the 33rd Regiment (3rd Burma Battalion), M.I., under the command of Lieutenant Hurly, and subsequently with the same number of men of the 32nd Regiment (4th Burma Battalion) M.I., under Lieutenant Carrick. Arrangements were also made for regulating the caravan traffic. The rates of tolls were fixed, and it was arranged that the sums collected should be divided among the Kachin Sawbwas who had formerly been in the habit of levying dues. The establishment of the post at the Nampaung was of great benefit to trade, and since it was placed there caravans have passed to and fro without molestation. No attempts have been made from the Chinese side to dislodge the troops on the Nampaung, although in December rumours were current of intentions on the part of the Chinese to attack it. Fortunately no such attacks were made.

North-Eastern column.

44. The proceedings of the North-Eastern column must now be narrated. This column visited the frontier and the country within the frontier from Myothit on the Taping to the Nantabet stream, and traversed without opposition large tracts of country which had never before been visited. The column left Myothit on the Taping on the 17th December and marched northwards to the Molè at a short distance from the frontier visiting the villages on and near its route. On reaching the Molè the column marched along its right bank to Kwikhaw on the frontier. The arrival of our troops at Kwikhaw caused some alarm in the trans-frontier town of Samapa, and bodies of armed men were seen on the hills immediately across the border. No collision took place, however, as the column kept scrupulously within the Burmese boundary. From Kwikhaw the column moved north westwards and visited the country near the Irrawaddy. On the 16th February, when the column was at Kazu, information was received that the tribes in the Sadôn tract had risen and were besieging the garrison which, as is explained in the following paragraphs, had been placed in Sadôn by the Irrawaddy column. The North-Eastern column at once hurried north, reached Sadôn on the 20th February, and relieved the besieged garrison. During the following days the column was engaged in suppressing the Sadôn rising and lost seven wounded and one follower killed in the course of the operations. On the 9th March it started southwards to complete its work to the south of the Nantabet. From Kazu on the Nantabet the column marched east to the frontier which was ascertained by local enquiries to extend much further east than had hitherto been supposed. Several days were spent in this part of the country and no opposition was met with, although the inhabitants had previously declared their intention of resisting. They were probably led to abandon this intention by the severe punishment inflicted on the tribes round Sadôn. On the 24th of March the column marched north-west and completed the visitation of the tract assigned to it. The operations of the North-Eastern column were attended with remarkable success and reflect much credit upon Mr. Hertz and Captain Davies. Besides relieving the garrison at Sadôn it traversed a large area of country which had never before been visited and which was inhabited by Kachin tribes reputed to be ill-disposed and to be bent on offering a stubborn resistance. Owing partly to the energy and judgment which guided all the proceedings of the column, partly to the lesson administered at Sadôn, no opposition was met and not a shot was fired in the whole tract between the Nantabet and the Taping. These facts are the more satisfactory because the operations of the column were not limited to a mere progress through the country. The Kachins were made to understand by the collection of tribute and the confiscation of arms that they are subject to British authority. Rupees 3,414-8-0 were collected as tribute, 680 guns were confiscated, and 336 guns were licensed. The Officiating Chief Commissioner fully concurs in the follow-

ing remarks, in which the Deputy Commissioner, Bhamo, characterizes the operations of the column—

"Of all the columns this column appears to have had the most hard work to do and to have done it in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. The tribes met with had for the most part been quite intractable and unvisited before, and the quiet and effective manner in which tribute was taken and the population disarmed reflects the greatest credit on the officers concerned. Nothing but the firmest and most judicious treatment could have brought about the effectual and quiet submission of this, in parts, most turbulent tract of country traversed by the column. Had there been the slightest hesitation in any of the several cases where at first trouble seemed to threaten, I have no doubt whatever, from such knowledge as I have been able to gather of the Kachin character, that the column would have met with organized resistance. It was only the vigorous manner in which the situation was treated and immediate respect enforced by the arrest of headmen and compulsory surrender of guns (which, as Mr. Hertz truly observes, is *the* best way of impressing the Kachins with a respect for our authority) that admittedly hostile tracts such as the Khowna kha valley were awed into submission."

Irrawaddy column.

45. The Irrawaddy column explored the section of the frontier between the Nantabet and the 'Nmaikha. This part of the country was visited for the first time in 1890-91 by Captain Eliott and Major Hobday, and it was decided, as a result of their investigations, to establish a post at Sadôn and to bring the country between the 'Nmaikha and the Nantabet under control. The operations of the Irrawaddy column were the result of this decision. The column left Myitkyina on the 23rd December and marched without opposition in the direction of Sadôn as far as the Tingri stream. A mile beyond this stream the column reached a strong stockade which barred its advance. After half an hour's firing the stockade was carried and the column marched on Sadôn. Here also opposition was met, and the village was not occupied without a considerable amount of fighting. As soon as Sadôn had been occupied the work of building a post was commenced. On the 11th January the main body of the column left Sadôn to explore the country to the north and north-east of the post. It first advanced to the neighbourhood of the Chinese frontier at Kambaiti Sakan. Thence it marched north to Kumpipum, a short distance south of the 'Nmaikha, and then returned to Sadôn, which it reached on the 23rd January. The chief object of the tour, which was to secure the submission of the Nawchôn and other Sawbwas in the tract north of Sadôn, was successfully accomplished. The tribes were told that they were now subject to our rule, our intentions were explained to them, and they were informed that they would have to pay tribute. The tribes willingly accepted these conditions and offered no opposition to the column. Nothing was done to disarm the tract, as the Civil Officer considered it inexpedient to do more for the present than to impress on the tribes that they are British subjects. Captain Eliott's reasons for treating the country round Sadôn differently from other Kachin tracts are that the people have hitherto been entirely independent, that they are very turbulent, and that it is desirable to proceed gradually in imposing on them the yoke of regular administration. The country round Sadôn is, it appears, inhabited by tribes who differ from the Kachins in race and language. These tribes are Lashis, Szis, Lishaws, and Marus, and inhabit a tract of country some forty miles long by twenty broad along the Chinese frontier from the 'Nmaikha to the Meungkaka. The peculiar conditions of the tract probably justified Captain Eliott in proceeding as he did, although in course of time it will no doubt be necessary to disarm the tract and administer it generally in the same manner as the other Bhamo highlands.

From the 24th January to the 4th February the column halted at Sadôn, and during this time the construction of the fort was pushed on as fast as possible. On the 1st February information was received that the Sawbwa of Sadankong, a village on the north of the 'Nmaikha, about two marches from 'Nsentaru, was collecting a hostile gathering, and intended to dispute our passage over the 'Nmaikha at the 'Nsentaru ferry should we attempt to cross that river. This news necessitated an alteration in the plans of the column. Originally it had been intended to visit the country south of Sadôn and carry out there the policy which had been followed in the tract to the

east. This plan, however, had to be postponed until the Sadankong Sawbwa had been subjugated. Every day he was allowed to retain his defiant attitude added to his prestige among the neighbouring Kachins, and the movement, if not promptly crushed, would probably have assumed formidable proportions. The column accordingly left Sadôn *en route* for Sadankong on the 5th February, and reached 'Nsentaru ferry on the 7th. The passage of the river was not disputed, as had been expected, but much difficulty was experienced in crossing it in consequence of the difficult nature of the ground. On the 9th February the crossing of the river was completed, and the column marched through a friendly country to Sampawng village. The people had never seen a white man before, and were greatly astonished at the appearance of the British troops. On the next day the troops advanced towards Sadankong and found their way blocked by seven stockades. These were carried and the column marched on Sadankong which was captured after further fighting. On the 12th and 13th February further attacks were made by the Kachins. These were repulsed and two adjacent villages which had taken part in the attack on the column were burnt. On the 14th February the column set out on its return journey to Sadôn.

On the 22nd February the column reached Sadôn, which during its absence had been besieged by the neighbouring tribes. The tribes to be north, west, and south of Sadôn rose about the 7th February, confined the small garrison which had been left at Sadôn within the fort, and harassed it by repeated attacks. The garrison defended itself with much gallantry against some 700 Kachins, until it was relieved on the 20th February by the North-Eastern column. In recognition of the skill and gallantry with which Sadôn was defended it has been named Fort Harrison after the officer who conducted the defence. An incident connected with the rising round Sadôn, which may appropriately be mentioned here, was the march of Lieutenant MacMunn to Sadôn. Lieutenant MacMunn started from the Irrawaddy with a convoy of stores in ignorance of the disturbances that were occurring round Sadôn. He reached the Namli river on the 9th, and from there to Sadôn, a distance of 13 miles, had to fight his way over most difficult country through a continual succession of stockades. His force consisted of only 15 Gurkhas of the Mogaung Military Police Battalion, and but for their excellent steadiness and courage would certainly have been cut to pieces.

During the remainder of February and the beginning of March the column was engaged in reducing to order the country round Sadôn which had furnished men for the attack on the fort. The enquiries made established the fact that the Kachins had not relied solely on themselves, but had been assisted by persons having some knowledge of the arts of war. The earthworks by means of which the siege of Sadôn was conducted are said to have been constructed with considerable skill, a skill entirely beyond the Kachins and conclusive evidence of assistance from beyond the frontier. It must be added that there is no evidence that the trans-frontier Chinese officials aided or countenanced the rebels. Some time after the disturbance was over a proclamation was issued by the principal officials at Yungchangfu and Momein forbidding any one to harbour fugitives from near Sadôn, and acknowledging indirectly that Sadôn lay beyond the Chinese frontier.

On the 11th March the Irrawaddy column started on the last part of its tour through the country to the north-west of Sadôn. In the course of this tour the column nearly made some very important captures. A Kachin who fired at a sepoy was caught and was found to be a slave of Po Saw, the *ex*-Wun of Mogaung. This man gave information that the camp of Po Saw and other noted outlaws was in the vicinity and led a party to the camp. Unfortunately the alarm was given before the camp was reached, and Po Saw and his companions escaped. From information given by the slave and collected in other quarters it appears that a sort of league existed between a chain of Sawbwas beginning with Sansi in China on the east and ending with Thama on the west of the Irrawaddy, and including Sadôn, Sadankong, Tungor and Thama. The *raison d'être* of this league was smuggling; it was in all probability subsidized by Chinese adventurers and winked at by Chinese officials; and

it was consequently bitterly hostile to the British advance. The operations of 1891-92 have thoroughly broken up the league, the Sadôn Sawbwa having been captured and Sadankong, Tungor, and Thama having been driven out. The Irrawaddy column, as the foregoing summary shows, got through a large amount of work and made a very satisfactory beginning with the business of establishing peace and order in the Sadôn tract. The season's work reflects much credit on Major Yule who commanded the column and on Captain Eliott who accompanied it as Civil Officer.

Public Works in the Kachin hills.

46. The public works carried out in the Kachin hills during the year under report were confined almost entirely to improvements to communications.

These consisted of—

(i) *Constructing a mule track from Bhamo to Hantôn, distance 28 miles.*—This road was examined and improved into a good mule track at a cost of Rs. 10,000.

(ii) *Road Senbo to the Mogaung chaung.*—This cart track, 20 miles long, was improved.

(iii) *Road from Sikaw to the Jade Mines.*—This road was improved with the exception of the last 14 miles into Fort O'Donnell. This, the worst portion of the road, cannot be undertaken until the end of the rains of 1892.

(iv) *Road from Myitkyina to Sadôn.*—This road was examined and reported on by the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, but it was not possible to carry out any very extensive improvements before the rains Mr. Lye, Marine Transport Officer, Mandalay, with the assistance of materials supplied by the Public Works Department, constructed a suspension bridge fit for mule traffic and 4 feet wide over the Namlikha, a strong and rapid stream midway between Myitkyina and Sadôn. He also arranged for a flying bridge at this point. A survey of the road with a view to a better alignment between Myitkyina and Sadôn will be undertaken next winter.

(v) *Road from Bhamo to Senbo through the Molè chaung valley.*—This line was examined, and it was ascertained that by keeping close under the hills a line for a road from Bhamo to Senbo, which would avoid the low ground in the centre of the valley, could probably be found.

(vi) *Road from Myitkyina to Mogaung.*—The country between Myitkyina and Mogaung was examined by the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, with a view to the construction of a road between Mogaung and Myitkyina. The best line appeared to be from Mogaung *viâ* Tapaw to Akye on the Irrawaddy river, and thence up the right bank of the river to Myitkyina. It is now in contemplation to extend the Mu Valley Railway from Mogaung to the Irrawaddy river, and during the rains the country will be examined with a view to ascertaining the best line for a railway from Mogaung to Myitkyina.

Telegraph lines.

47. The following telegraph lines were constructed in the Bhamo district during the year:—

(i) From Bhamo to Nampaung, 40 miles.
(ii) From Mogaung to Myitkyina, 44 miles.
(iii) From Myitkyina to Sadôn, 43 miles.
(iv) From Mogaung to Kamaing, 32 miles.

By order,

E. S. SYMES,

The 29th July 1892. *Chief Secretary.*

G. B. C. P. O.—No. 3782, B. S., 20-8-92—200.